(c) whether the Government propose to make available an adequate amount under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) and other rural development programmes for social forestry and regeneration schemes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) A National Action Plan on Biodiversity is under preparation. This Plan aims at consolidating the on-going efforts of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity including forest biodiversity and initiating further action as required.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has been requesting the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment to allocate 25 per cent of funds under Poverty alleviation schemes for forestry works. At present the two major rural employment programmes under the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment are the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) and the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS). Under JRY 60% of the allocated funds are earmarked for economically productive assets such as minor irrigation, development of rural markets, watershed development, social forestry, soil and water conservation, agro-horticulture, pasture development etc. Under EAS 40% of the funds are earmarked for water and soil conservation including afforestation agro-horticulture and silvipasture. There is no separate earmarking of funds for social forestry under JRY and EAS.

[Translation]

Drip/Sprinkler Irrigation System

1692. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to the concessions and incentives extended on the product of drip/sprinkler irrigation system, there has been a mushroom growth of companies in the market and these companies are selling their products in the name of foreign brands and there is a vast difference between the prices of the machines manufactured by various companies;

(b) the number of indigenous companies engaged in the manufacturing of such machines and the companies exporting their products to foreign countries;

(c) the names of agencies responsible for the price fixation and quality control of these machines; and

(d) the points taken into consideration at the time of price fixation and steps taken by the Government to check the sale of sub-standard spare parts ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) As the demand for irrigation systems have grown, there has been a proportionate growth in the number of companies. Few companies have entered into joint ventures with foreign companies and selling the product in the name of foreign collaborator. There is no appreciable difference in quality and prices between indigenous and imported components.

(b) There are about seventy manufacturers and about 6 are exporting their products to foreign countries.

(c) and (d) The Government has issued detailed guidelines in respect of drip irrigation to all the states indicating the maximum cost permissible for the purpose of subsidy disbursements taking into account the design of the system and crop spacing. The guidelines also stipulate that all components must carry the BIS mark for quality assurance to be eligible for subsidy.

[English]

Petro-Chemical Units

1693. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news report appearing in the 'Economic Times', dated February 5, 1997 under the caption "Rs. 30,000 cr. petrochem plans in limbo due to Centre's apathy";

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government to the observations made therein and facts of the matter;

(c) the present status of these projects, project-wise;

(d) the details of steps being taken or proposed to be taken for their early clearance; and

(e) the time schedule for implementation of these projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) No proposals have been received in the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals for setting up petrochemical complex from PRA Petrochemicals, MKR Industries, K.K. Golyan or Jindal Ferro. The proposal has been received from M/s HC Hydro Carbon and Petrochemicals related to setting up of a refinery and Petro Chemical Complex. The refinery proposal was referred to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. For the Petrochemical complex, additional details were sought from the company and they have not been supplied.

Economic Package for Sikkim

1694. SHRI BHIM PRASAD DAHAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :